DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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E. DOERSE ISRAEL MARKINGS ☐
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Under FOI EXEMPTIONS

(80)

1. Israeli Payment

2. Co-Production of the F-16

3. Israeli E-C2 Hawkeye

4. Israeli Overflights of Tabuk

Israeli Payment

Q. FMS credit levels for the past several years have been only $1 billion. How will Israel pay for the aircraft?

A. Israel will not be required to pay the full amount for the aircraft in one year, but will pay as the planes are produced. Payments will be spread out over several years. We believe that the resources we are providing, plus Israel's own resources, are sufficient to meet Israel's security requirements.

Co-Production of F-16s

Q. Will the F-16 aircraft be co-produced in Israel?

A. The question of co-production of the F-16 is complicated by the extensive co-production arrangements we made several years ago with several NATO allies and our own policy restraint on co-production. Israel would like to obtain a degree of participation in the production and assembly of the aircraft and major components. We will be discussing with Israel various ideas on the extent to which such participation is feasible and practical.

Israeli E-2C Hawkeye

Q: Will the Saudi F-15 be capable of neutralizing the Israeli E-2C Hawkeye?

A: Israel does not yet have an operational capability with the E-2C Hawkeye as only two have been delivered. The maneuverability of these planes makes them less vulnerable to attack then fixed ground radar systems.

Israeli Overflights of Tabuk

Q: Can you comment on the Washington Star report that the Israelis are making "mock attacks" on the Saudi air base at Tabuk and that the Saudis have complained to us about it and that we have taken it up with the Israelis?

A: At times in the past the Saudis have complained to us about Israeli overflights of Tabuk. Foreign Minister Prince Saud noted this in talking with members of Congress in the fall of 1976. On occasion in the past we have discussed this problem with the Israelis.

Q: Have Israeli overflights stopped or have they intensified recently?

A: No comment.